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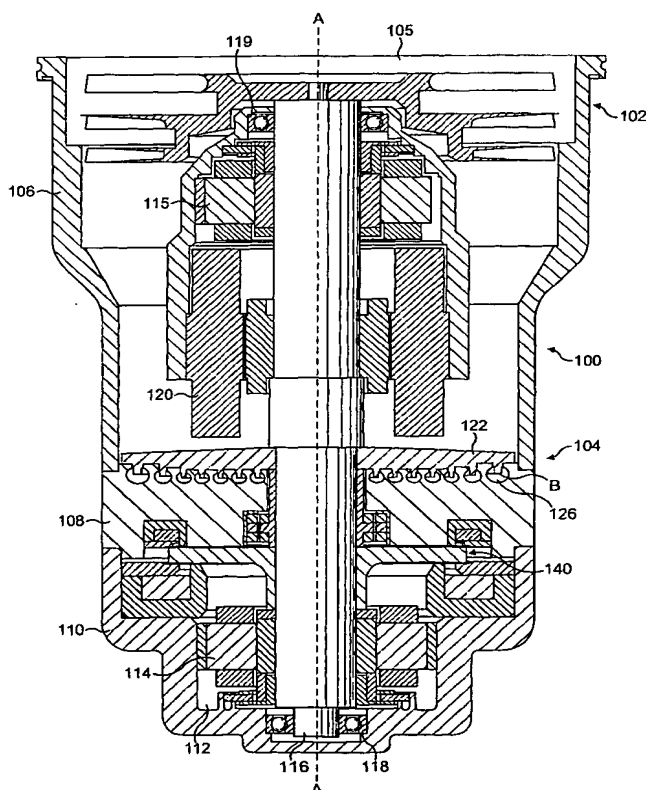
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- (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): **THE BOC GROUP PLC** [GB/GB]; Chertsey Road, Windlesham, Surrey GU20 6HJ (GB).
- (72) Inventor; and
- (75) Inventor/Applicant (for US only): **SCHOFIELD, Nigel, Paul** [GB/GB]; BOC Edwards, York Road, Burgess Hill, West Sussex RH15 9TT (GB).
- (74) Agent: **BOOTH, Andrew, Steven**; The BOC Group Plc, Chertsey Road, Windlesham, Surrey GU20 6HJ (GB).
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(54) Title: VACUUM PUMPING ARRANGEMENT



(57) Abstract: A regenerative pumping mechanism comprises a rotor having a series of blades positioned in an annular array on one side of the rotor, and a stator having an annular channel within which the blades rotate. In order to control the axial clearance between the rotor and the stator, an axial magnetic bearing actively controls relative axial movement between the rotor and the stator. This can allow the pumping mechanism to provide controllable axial sealing between the rotor and the stator, as opposed to radial sealing.



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